3518

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A New Genus of Ants from Yunnan, China (Hymenoptera: Formicidae: Formicinae)

Wu Jian Wang Changlu

The Research Institute of Forest Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry

ABSTRACT A new genus of ants, *Dolophra* gen. n. from China is described. Its special shape of head, propodeum and gaster make it easily distinguished from other genera of Formicinae. The type species *Dolophra politae* sp. n. was collected in Jinghong county, Yunnan province, where is near the border of Burma.

KEY WORDS *Dolophra* gen. n., *Dolophra politae* sp. n., Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Formicinae

Introduction

In November of 1987, We took part in a scientific expedition to Xishuangbanna Natural Conservation, Yunnan province, an area with enormous diversity of Formicidae. During recent work on a book of Chinese ants, We found 3 specimens with very special characters. First appearence of them showed similarity with *Hypoclinea* of Dolichoderinae. However, detailed examination revealed than they should be in the subfamily Formicinae. When check by keys provided by Holldobler & Wilson (1990), they do not fall into any genera of Formicinae. It is certain that these specimens belong to a distinct new genus. For the specialities, we feel that it should be published in an isolated paper for rapid and broader recognization by myrmecologists.

Standard measurements are as defined by Bolton (1983), and ED is the maximum diameter of eye . Type specimens are kept in the Insect Collection, Chinese Academy of Forestry.

Dolophra gen. n. (Figures 1—3)

= Camponotus s.l. de Bolton

Diagnosis of worker: Monomorphic. Body strongly built. Posterior margin of head convex, sides of head only slightly convex . Ocelli abscent . Eyes very large , placed in the sides above the middle line of the head. Antennae 12 segmented . Antennal socket situated far behind the posterior margin of clypeus . Antennal riges short, low and diverging. Posterior margin of clypeus straight, Anterior margin of clypeus round . Mandibles triangular, furnished with 5 teeth. Palp formula 6,4. Pro-mesonotal

suture distinct. Metanotum present, wide and deep. Base of propodeum flat, the posterior part of it rounded into a long declivity, which is two times long of the base. Middle of the declivty interrupted by a high transverse convexity.

Petiole long, with a low and thick node. Gaster long, oval, flat above. First gastral tergite low, not overlapping the petiole. Cloacal openning round, not surrounded by a fringe of hairs.

Female and male: Unknown.

Type species: *Dolophra politae sp.* n.

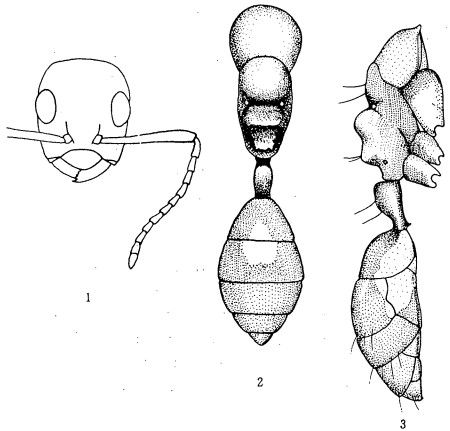

FIGURE 1. Dorsal view of head, 2. Dorsal view of body, 3. Lateral view of body

Discussions

This very interesting new genus has the combination characters of Dolichoderinae and Formicinae. The body structure and shape of alitrunk are very similar to *Hypoclinea* of Dolichoderinae. However, the round cloacal openning and clypeus shape indicate that it shoud be referred to Formicinae.

Dolophra politae sp. n. (Figures 1—3)

Worker (Holotype cited first)(mm): TL4. 4, 4. 2, 4. 4, HL 0. 98, 0. 96, 0. 92, HW 0. 78, 0. 77, 0. 74, CI 80, 80, 80, ED 0. 30, 0. 30, 0. 29, SL 0. 92, 0. 90, 0. 93, SI 118, 117, 126, PW 0. 62, 0. 63, 0. 63, WL 1. 48, 1. 44, 1. 40.

Head longer than wide. Occipital margin convex. Sides of head almost straight, slightly convex. Eyes very large , flat, situated posterior to the middle of head. Antennal socket located far behind the posterior margin of the clypeus. Scape of antennae extending slightly beyond the occipital margin. Clypeus convex, posterior margin straight, anterior margin round. Mandibles triangular, furnished with 5 teeth.

Alitrunk a little compressed laterally. Pronotum and mesonotum slightly convex, forming a weak arc. Anterior part of pronotum not margined. Pro-mesonotal suture distinct. Meso-propodeal suture deep and wide. Base of propodeum flat, the posterior end rounding into a much longer declivity, which is two times long of the base. The middle of declivity raised transversely, just like the obtuse angle between the base and declivity.

Petiole long and low , The length is more than two times long of the height. The anterior surface straight and inclined forward. The upper surface convex , rounded gradually into the posterior surface of the petiole. Legs long. Gaster long, oval, flat above.

Body smooth and shining. Head, alitrunk and petiole finely puntured and rugulose. Mesonotum and propodeum coarsely punctured and distinctly wrinkled.

Pubescence greyish, very short and dilute. Upper surface of head (without clypeus) with 1—8 long greyish hairs. Anterior margin of clypeus furnished with at least 4 long hairs. Several hairs present around the center of clypeus. Hairs abscent on pronotum. Mesonotum, alitrunk and node of petiole each with one or a pair of long hairs. Pilosity in the gaster relatively abundant, especially at the end of gaster.

Black. Mandibles, antennae and legs brownish red. The posterior part of coxa and trochanter yellowish white to brownish yellow. Anterior part of middle and hind tibiae

of legs distinctly darker than the other part of the legs. Posterior center of the first tergite and anterior of the second tergite of alitrunk with a large yellow spot. The first and second sternite yellow.

Holotype worker: Jinghong Co., Yunnan province, 1987－XI－25. Wu Jian and Wang Changlu legs.

Paratypes: 2 workers with same data as holotype.

Literature Cited

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